

# Board Orders More Study on Salary Plans

Torrance

## Press-Herald

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**CRASH SCENE . . .** Three persons were killed and six others, including the pilot, were injured when a light plane crashed into power lines and a station wagon Monday near the San Diego-Harbor Freeway Interchange. The light single-engine craft was virtually consumed by flames, sheriff's deputies said.

A 32-year-old Gardena man, his wife, and son were killed in the crash. The plane had left the Torrance Municipal Airport Monday afternoon on a flight to Selvang, it was reported.

(Press-Herald Photo by Doug Huff)

# Plane Hits Power Lines; Three Dead

## Six Injured as Craft Hits Car

By DOUG HUFF

Press-Herald Staff Writer

A desperate attempt to land in a Carson area field Monday afternoon failed and three of four persons aboard a single engine light aircraft died in the flaming wreckage as the craft hit more than two dozen 33,000 volt power lines topping two poles and nicking a car carrying five persons, none of whom were seriously hurt.

Power was cut to more than 1,000 homes for almost seven hours as the lines lay amid the incinerated wreckage and draped across cars and buildings on Main Street, south of 212th Street between Carson and Torrance boulevards.

Dead in the fiery 1:50 p.m. crash were Herbert Johnson, 32; his wife, Katherine, 21; and their son James, 6, all of 522 W. 147th St., Gardena.

**PILOT OF THE plane,** Richard Schilling, 34, of Los Angeles, was pulled from the flaming wreckage with second and third degree burns over 75 per cent of his body. He is in critical condition at Harbor General Hospital.

Driver of the car, a station wagon, Darrell Purinton, 33, of Redondo Beach, suffered a sprained lower back from the broken power pole's impact. His wife, Myrna, 32, suffered slight burns on her right arm when the flames came around the side of the car and into a window.

The Purinton's three children, Pamela, 12, Dolly, 10, Drew, 5, and Brad, 18 months, were not injured.

**FLAMES IGNITED** by the lines and the plane's gas tank completely consumed the plane, leaving it almost a powder except for a portion of a wing and an unburned door thrown clear, by the

time 50 county firemen arrived on the scene.

John L. Scott, 31, of 1037 W. 213th St., Carson, one of four persons credited with at least temporarily saving Pilot Schilling's life by Sheriff and Highway Patrolmen, gave the following account of what happened:

"I was standing in the office of my wrecking yard (about 100 yards away) when I heard the plane sputtering. I knew the engine was failing so I rushed out and looked up.

"The pilot was attempting to land in the Golden Eagle Oil Company Field but I could see he wasn't going to make it. He overshot it and attempted to come back for another pass but was too low.

"He hit some wires, started to pull up but the wind blew it into some wires. It hit the two power poles and was sucked right down to the ground."

**SCOTT SAID** he and an employee, Neal Matthews Jr., 44, raced to the blazing craft and spotted Schilling, half crawling, half-staggering, a few feet from the plane.

"He must have been blown out by the explosion. He was screaming 'I'm on fire - I'm on fire' until he saw us. We pulled him to the ground and he tried to tell us his name and who else was in the plane," Scott related.

William Grijalva, 52, of 31217 Archibald Ave., Carson, was in the Sports Club bar when the craft plunged down next to the bar. He said he dragged the pilot by the belt a few feet before Scott, Matthews and Robert Demesko, 25, of 22939 Dolores St., Carson, came to help.

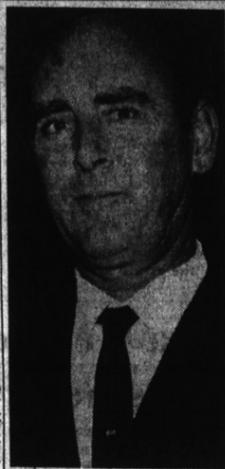
"I LEFT THAT GUY to be helped by the others and went to the plane and attempted to help the others, especially the little kid, but it was too hot. I had to back off. He was shaking his head. 'They were screaming Lord, Lord!'"

Demesko was repairing a car in Scott's yard when he saw the plane "25 to 30 feet off the ground—I know because I could see the people clearly. I could even see the kid sitting on the woman's lap."

Purinton, recovering in the hospital several hours later, said he could still feel the heat from the fire. "I wasn't going any place in particular, just taking a ride with the family because I had the day off," the electronics worker said.

**ANOTHER witness** to the tragedy was 9-year-old Bobby Chisolm, 20807 Margaret St., Carson. Falling wires hit his bicycle.

Bobby had been looking for fire crackers in the area when he dismounted his bike. (See CRASH, Page A-2)



**WINS AWARD . . .** George M. Trumpler, of 21917 Ocean Ave., received his pin for completing 20 years of service with the city of Los Angeles. Trumpler is in the city's Airports Building Division.

## Service To Pier Proposed

A plan to provide direct bus service by the Torrance municipal bus lines to the Redondo Beach pleasure pier has been proposed to the Torrance City Council's public works committee.

Councilman David K. Lyman, chairman of the three-man body, said such a service would not only be a convenience to travelers, but could help offset a \$75,000 deficit faced annually by the municipal bus lines.

**UNDER THE PLAN,** city buses would run along Torrance Boulevard at regularly-scheduled intervals, picking up and depositing passengers at stops not presently served by Southern California Rapid Transit District buses or Greyhound buses.

Along with the service, Lyman said, the committee would seek allocation of a budget to advertise and promote it. "If we are going to do this on a trial basis," he said, "we should do everything we can to make it work."

**LYMAN SAID** his committee already has received tentative approval of the plan from the Redondo Beach City Council and from SCRDT. The last hurdle the plan must clear before being brought to the city council for action is with Greyhound Bus Lines who also must approve the proposal.

"We are crying about losing money on this line," said Lyman. "We feel putting bus lines along routes where they will pay may help us out of this financial dilemma."

## Rotarians Meet

Don Meyer, newly elected president of the Torrance Rotary Club, will discuss plans for the new year at a meeting scheduled today. The session is to be held at the Indian Village Restaurant.

## Two Youths Held for Auto Theft

A pair of Wilmington men were charged with auto theft and possession of stolen property Monday by Torrance police after officers stopped their auto on a minor vehicle violation.

The two were stopped after officers noticed their auto did not have a 1967 license and taken into custody when they could not identify the auto's owner.

Lawrence Custodio, 18, of 1014 E. O St., and Federico Mallay, 19, of 915 Wilmington Ave., No. 7, were placed under the stolen property possession charge after a search of the auto found a car stereo under the front seat and a radio in the trunk, police reported.

The men said they were looking for a friend's house about 2 a.m. near 25th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard when police noticed their auto.

## Redondo Soldier Killed ---

Army Spec. 4 Michael G. Brown Monday was listed by the Department of Defense as killed in action in Vietnam. Specialist Brown is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Brown of 2501 Mathews St., Redondo Beach. The 19-year-old soldier joined the Army a year ago today and was attached to a Special Forces unit in Vietnam.

## Adoption Case Appealed ---

Los Angeles County's Bureau of Adoptions moved Monday to upset a Court of Appeals ruling and stop the adoption of a 2-year-old boy by a deaf-mute couple from Torrance. The county has asked the State Supreme Court to review the ruling won May 23 by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Christensen, 425 Broderick St., which held that Superior Court Judge A. A. Scott, who ruled in 1966 that the Christensens could not provide a "normal home" for the boy, was biased. The county appeal was filed on the last day which it could legally be filed.

## Torrance Man Stabbed ---

A Torrance man was reported in satisfactory condition this morning after he was stabbed in the stomach with a kitchen knife late Monday night. Gary Ramond Pappas, 21, of 1860 Torrance Blvd., was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital after the incident at 20627 Amie St. Police later charged Pappas' roommate, Jerry Wayne Tatum, 24, with the stabbing and booked him with assault to commit murder at the Torrance police station.

## School Board Again Delays Vote On Teachers' Salary Schedules

By TIM O'DONNELL

Press-Herald Staff Writer

Members of the Torrance Board of Education Monday tabled action on teachers' salary adjustments until their July 24 meeting in order to complete additional study of the district's financial limitations.

The board also asked Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, to look at several salary proposals submitted by individual trustees.

At Monday's meeting, only Dr. Donald E. Wilson supported recommendations submitted by Dr. Hull. A motion to approve the proposed increases, arrived at during meetings with the district's Negotiating Council, died for lack of a second.

**TEACHERS,** in the proposal submitted to the board, said they would be willing to "per-

mit unequal raises for some this year in order to put into motion a schedule that will be uniform in the years to come."

In discussion of the proposal backed by the teachers, Dr. Wilson said, "The best way to destroy this district is to try to 'weasel out' of giving teachers their deserved salaries."

Dr. Wilson said Torrance is in a competitive market for teachers and must be prepared to compete with salaries being offered by other districts for good teachers.

**BOARD President Bert M. Lynn** presented figures compromising somewhat those submitted by Dr. Hull and said he could not see his way clear to give teachers what he considers to be too substantial a pay hike.

Lynn, in an earlier meeting on the salary issue, said the proposal backed by the Torrance Education Association would "bankrupt the community."

Supporting the move to table further discussion of the salary schedules, Dr. Hull said, "I believe I am now closer than I have ever been in determining the differences in the various salary proposals."

**THE TEA reaffirmed** its

demands for a 2-to-1 ratio between minimum and maximum salary steps, a decision made at a TEA meeting two weeks ago.

Action also was tabled on salary adjustments for the district's non-teaching personnel, partly to await the results of a negotiations for allocation of state funds.

School board members indicated they would act on both certificated and classified salary proposals at the July 24 session.

## IN NORTH TORRANCE

## Season Closes, Ending Dispute Over Baseball

By ED FREUDENBURG

Press-Herald Staff Writer

The North Torrance Babe Ruth League temporarily ended its dispute with an adjoining trailer park last week-end when it closed its 1967 season, but it appears that the league will continue to use Guenser Park in future seasons despite opposition.

The Babe Ruth League has been under fire from residents in the Royal Western Mobilehome Park adjacent to the park because baseballs from the league have repeatedly been hit into the residential area.

During the last two months, the league has been seeking to construct a city approved fence. It appears that the league will have to construct a 50-foot high fence to protect the residents, according to John P. Gauci, league president.

**GAUCI SAID** his league could not leave the area because the park is the only one available.

"We're running out of room in Torrance for baseball," he stated.

To combat the problem, Gauci said his league would certainly put up a fence above the already existing 24-foot fence so that the league could play ball in the park.

Cost for the fence, he said, would be about \$4,700 and would have to be paid for by the league over several years.

**BUT, HE SAID,** the cost of fence is minimal when the benefits are averaged in the number of boys in the league.

The Babe Ruth League has approximately 100 boys in its program during the last season and has graduated more than 1,000 in the past, Gauci commented.

Part of the problem of shielding the trailer park has been the height needed for protection, according to Director of Recreation Harry Van Bellehem. He indicated that a recent survey of the land showed it to be 30 feet less than expected. The depth of the field is 320 feet and not 350 as believed by his department and the league.

**SINCE THE 24-foot fence**

## Citizen-of-Year To Be Selected

A South Bay Citizen-of-the-Year will be honored by Great Lakes Properties, Inc., Monday at the first annual South Bay Leadership Banquet on the S.S. Princess Louise in Los Angeles Harbor.

Chosen from among the first year's recipients of South Bay Citizen-of-the-Month awards inaugurated in the spring of 1966 by the land development company, the Citizen-of-the-Year will be the feature presentation on the dinner program which will also include a prominent guest speaker.

Prominent elected officials and civic dignitaries from all over the South Bay have been invited to attend the dinner, including Senator Robert Stevens, Congressman Alphonso Bell, Councilman John S. Gibson Jr., Supervisor Burton W. Chace, and the mayors from 12 cities.

Among the South Bay Citizens-of-the-Month eligible for the annual award are Lt. Col. Alfeo L. Bernardi, San Pedro; Ante "Tony" Perkov, San Pedro; Linda and Jeffrey Shrader, San Pedro; Dr. Margaret Storkan, M.D., Redondo Beach; Dwight V. Crum, Redondo Beach; Mrs. Leo Gardner, Redondo Beach; Jon Wallenius, Redondo Beach; Alexander "Sandy" McEachern, Manhattan Beach; L. Hugh O'Brien, Manhattan Beach; Gerald Richardson, Manhattan Beach; and Ronald Schlosser, Torrance.

Loring Marlett, vice president of Great Lakes Properties, Inc., will present the award. South Bay civic leaders Morgan Moore, Max B. Schwartz, and William Belding serve as judges for the award program.